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NEWS RELEASE

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Green Building Commission announcing Highlands Neighborhood Event and Meeting

Lowell - The Lowell Green Building Commission (GBC) is coming to your neighborhood on the evening of October 14th at 6 p.m. and you're invited. It's the first in a series of neighborhood meetings aimed at developing additional community involvement. Come and find out more about city-wide conservation efforts and join us in recognizing a long term energy conservation leader, Temple Emanuel.

The meeting at Temple Emanuel will include a tour of the 101 West Forest Street building which includes solar panels that power the temple's eternal light, as well as recent high efficiency improvements. The solar installation dates back to 1978 and is thought to be the first such system placed into service in a religious building in North America.

The Commission will also conduct its regular business meeting which includes the following agenda items:

- Review green building and sustainability curriculum for Lowell School Department;
- Discuss process and timing to donate kilowatt meter and infrared thermometers to the City and to make the tools available at the Pollard Library;
- Discussion with Joanne Souza on informational packets based on the EcoBroker library for Do-It-Yourself energy efficiency, conservation, air quality improvements for homeowners.

The Commission was founded in November, 2007 and is in its third year of operation. Along with City leaders, the GBC has made great progress on the energy conservation and sustainability front. This includes designation as a Green Community, implementing the stretch code to save energy, and passage of wind and solar ordinances. The volunteer panel has also worked with Lowell Public Schools to add energy conservation curriculum materials and develop a successful energy awards program, among other initiatives.

The Commission's mission is to promote and advocate for "green" design, construction and development practices in the City of Lowell through research, identification, and implementation of policies, programs, and education in order to increase sustainability and reduce environmental impacts of building activity.

Attendance is encouraged and admission is free to public. Time will also be allowed on the agenda for a question and answer period about residential conservation programs and related issues.